BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT (BOP)

INVOLVEMENT IN FIRE BOMBINGS

On June 5, 1968, source two advised that on June 5, 1968, the Invaders, consisting of John B. Smith, Oree McKenzie, Murrell McCullough, Larry Davis, Richard Cabbage, Van Cabbage, Donney Delaney, Monroe Hinds Jr., Arthur Norwood, Verdell Brooks, Melvin Smith, Charles Ballard, Womax Lee Stevenson, Clinton Jamerson, James E. Phillips, Coby Vernon Smith, Emmett House, Hurley Gibson and Ben Berry, met to discuss their scheduled June 6, 1968, "operation." It was learned that they planned to fire bomb three to four groceries in the black area of southwest Memphis, including Sciara's Grocery on South Parkway West. Charles Cabbage and Milton Mack joined the group.

It was decided to let the younger Invaders, led by Richard Cabbage, finalize the plans. Richard Cabbage wanted to hold off, saying he had been followed by police but Norwood wanted to go ahead. Oree McKenzie, John B. Smith and Larry Davis were planning their alibis for the night of June 6, 1968. Voting to go ahead were Donney Delaney, Norwood, McKenzie, Davis and Womax Stevenson. Plans were to hit three white groceries with fire bombs simultaneously. Listed were Sciara's 254 South Parkway West, Downing's Grocery and a Chinese grocery.

On the evening of June 6, 1968, source one advised that at about 9:00 p.m. Ben Berry, Emmett House, Hurley Gibson and Larry Davis said, "Something is going to happen about 11:00 to 11:30 p.m. June 6, 1968."

On June 7, 1968, sources one and two advised that circumstantially three white groceries were fire bombed between 11:15 and midnight June 6, 1968. Sources advised that Invaders Verdell Brooks, Finus Bethel, John B. Smith, Oree McKenzie, Larry Davis, Melvin Smith, Emmett House and Hurley Gibson, as well as Charles Ballard and Murrell McCullough, established alibis by being at the Log Cabin Cafe, South Parkway West, beginning around 11:00 p.m., when Sciara's was fire bombed. Enroute to the Log Cabin John B. Smith said the Invaders were setting up something like the Mafia and he would call it the

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"Et U John Bey Society" and that they had been trying to get money from white merchants for "protection" but could not get it and "now we'll have to take it." He said "We'll burn the town in order to waken the people. He said he would let someone else do the burning. Oree McKenzie said, "Sciara's is going to get burned"because John B. had a 'run-in' with the proprietor."

TENN

Source two added that it was apparent that at about 9:00 p.m. June 6, 1968, John B. Smith told Ben Berry that the latter and his group should make the Molotov cocktails at Berry's house, 59 E. Triggs. At Smith's apartment Arthur Norwood, John Henry Ferguson, Womax Stevenson, one Giller (phonetic), Monroe Hinds Jr. and Eric "Lard" Holman rubbed their arms with alcohol, put on dark clothes and left. The following assignments were made to burn:

Hyman's Builders	Ferguson and group
Sciara's Grocery	Norwood and group
Store at Kansas and Ingle	Stevenson and group
Downing's Grocery	"Lard" Holman and group.

On June 7 1968, Lt. E. H. Arkin said that between 11:15 p.m and midnight June 6, 1968, three groceries were set afire; namely, Sciara's, grocery at Florida and Ingle and a grocery at 6670 Kansas. The Memphis Fire Department put out Sciara's and the Kansas fires early with little damage. The Ingle grocery was burned. TENN

On August 7, 1968, Lt. Arkin said the fire marshal's office is still investigating the fires.

On the night of June 24, 1968, Capt. Jewell G Ray, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised that Invaders Oree McKenzie, Arthur Norwood and Womax Stevenson planned to fire bomb a Texaco service station at South Parkway West and Swift. He said that prior to this Melvin Smith had said, "Memphis is going to burn tonight. South Memphis has its 'thing' ready." Monroe Hinds Jr., who with all of the above are Invaders, told his associates to watch "tomorrow's" (June 25, 1968) papers. He also said that Invader Emmett